

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20505

MEMORANDUM FOR: MR. STEPHEN R. LYNE
DIRECTOR, VIETNAM, LAOS AND CAMBODIA
BUREAU OF EAST ASIA AND PACIFIC AFFAIRS
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

MR. FRANK A. STEVERTS
DEPUTY COORDINATOR FOR PRISONER OF WAR
AND MISSING IN ACTION MATTERS
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

MR. CHARLES F. TROWBRIDGE
CHIEF, PRISONER OF WAR/MISSING IN ACTION BRANCH
RESOURCES AND INSTALLATIONS DIVISION
DIRECTORATE FOR INTELLIGENCE (RESEARCH CENTER)

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PRINCIPAL ADVISOR FOR PRISONER OF WAR AND
MISSING IN ACTION AFFAIRS
(INTERNATIONAL SECURITY AFFAIRS)
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

FROM : JOHN N. MCMAHON
DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR OPERATIONS

SUBJECT : ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON U.S. PRISONERS OF
WAR REPORTEDLY HELD IN NORTH VIETNAM AND
REPORTED SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM POLICY
ON INFORMATION REGARDING U.S. PERSONNEL
KILLED IN ACTION

NO HARD COPY FOLLOWS

ATTACHED AS OF POSSIBLE INTEREST TO YOU IS A REPORT
OBTAINED IN EARLY JUNE 1979 [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] WE ARE GIVING THIS REPORT NO FURTHER DISSEMINATION
[REDACTED]

CC: D/NFAC
NFAC/OPA

ATTACHMENT:
REPORT AS STATED

FIR-317/09168-79 (ASE)

4 JUN 1982

[REDACTED] I
[REDACTED]
SUBJECT: ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON U.S. PRISONERS OF WAR
REPORTEDLY HELD IN NORTH VIETNAM AND REPORTED SOCIALIST GOVERN-
MENT OF VIETNAM POLICY ON INFORMATION REGARDING U.S. PERSONNEL
KILLED IN ACTION.

1. (HEADQUARTERS COMMENT: [REDACTED] C
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

ALTHOUGH THE INFORMATION IN
ALL FOLLOWING PARAGRAPHS IS FRAGMENTARY AND SECOND-HAND, WE ARE
REPORTING IT BECAUSE OF THE DEGREE OF INTEREST IN THE SUBJECT OF
U.S. PRISONERS OF WAR (POW'S). THE REPORTING RELIABILITY OF ALL
THESE [REDACTED] SOURCES IS UNKNOWN.) B

2. IN MID-1976 [REDACTED] B
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

SAID THAT EARLY IN THAT YEAR
THEY HAD SEEN ABOUT 230 U.S. POW'S WHO WERE BEING HELD AT BAT BAT
IN SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM (SRV) HA SON BINH PROVINCE.

(HEADQUARTERS COMMENT: THIS LOCATION WAS PREVIOUSLY MISTAKENLY
IDENTIFIED AS BAT BAC. THE NUMBER OF U.S. POW'S REPORTED HERE
APPEARS EXAGGERATED [REDACTED] C
[REDACTED]

3. [REDACTED] B
[REDACTED] WHILE HE [REDACTED] A, B
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

WAS IMPRISONED AT BAT BAT IN FEBRUARY 1976 [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] HE HAD SEEN U.S. POW'S THERE.

4. IN A CONVERSATION HELD SOMETIME IN 1978, [REDACTED] SAID THAT UNNAMED [REDACTED] COLLEAGUES HAD TOLD HIM THAT AS OF AUGUST 1977 THERE WERE STILL U.S. POW'S HELD IN NORTH VIETNAM. HOWEVER, THESE COLLEAGUES GAVE [REDACTED] NO DETAILS.

5. ACCORDING TO [REDACTED] WHO HAD BEEN HELD IN AN SRV REEDUCATION CAMP IN FORMER YEN BAI (NOW PART OF SRV HOANG LIEN SON) PROVINCE, IN MID-1978 ONE AMERICAN WAS AT THIS CAMP WHO HAD FORMERLY BEEN A POW. THIS AMERICAN, WHO HAD MARRIED A VIETNAMESE WOMAN, WORKED AS PART OF THE CAMP LABOR FORCE AND HAD GREATER FREEDOM THAN THE FORMER SOUTH VIETNAMESE GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS HELD AT THIS CAMP. HE WAS NO LONGER TREATED AS A POW AND HE APPEARED TO BE COOPERATING FREELY WITH THE SRV AUTHORITIES. (SOURCE COMMENT: WHETHER THIS AMERICAN WAS ACTUALLY FREE TO LEAVE THE SRV OR WHETHER HE WAS SIMPLY ALLOWED MORE FREEDOM SINCE HIS WIFE COULD BE HELD AS A HOSTAGE IS UNKNOWN.)

6. ACCORDING TO [REDACTED] UNNAMED RELATIVES HAD TOLD HIM THAT AS OF 1978 NO MORE U.S. POW'S WERE BEING HELD IN THE SRV. THE SRV GOVERNMENT WAS WITHHOLDING INFORMATION ON BURIAL SITES OF THOSE U.S. PERSONNEL KILLED IN ACTION FOR USE LATER AS A BARGAINING CHIP WITH THE U.S. GOVERNMENT. (HEADQUARTERS COMMENT: THE ACCESS OF THE SOURCE'S RELATIVES TO THIS INFORMATION IS UNKNOWN.)

IR-317/09169-79

[REDACTED]